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NSC FOR NEA STAFF

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HQ USAF FOR XXXX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
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CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

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SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

Israel Radio reported that Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Welch and Quartet Mideast envoy Tony Blair will come to the region next month ahead of Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice's visit. Israel Radio also reported that the donor countries to the PA will meet in New York.

Ha'aretz (Akiva Eldar) reported that PA headquarters in Ramallah was irritated by the lead story in Thursday's Ha'aretz, which said that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has not definitely rejected Israel's proposal of establishing a Palestinian state with temporary borders.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the IDF, predicting that Israel's future wars will be characterized by unprecedented missile barrages, has decided to modify its missile defense doctrine and has changed its deployment of Arrow missiles in northern Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reported that a senior French Foreign Ministry official told the newspaper that France is acting to provide several Arab countries with peaceful nuclear programs in order to wean the region off oil and boost Franco-Arab relations.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that the IDF and settlers are preparing an agreement over illegal settler outposts in which construction in older outposts would be permitted. The newspaper cited confirmation by Defense Minister Ehud Barak's office.

Yediot and other media reported that parents in Sderot want their children evacuated from the city and not attend school there.

Israel Radio reported that last night Ambassador Richard Jones held a reception in honor of the election of President Shimon Peres and his 60 years of public service. The radio reported that Peres will visit Italy and meet with Pope Benedict XVI, the principal Italian leaders, and opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi.

The Jerusalem Post reported on controversy on Capitol Hill surrounding Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer's upcoming book, "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," and Abe Foxman's own book "The Deadliest Lies: The Israeli Lobby and the Myth of Jewish Control." Ha'aretz also cites the buzz around those books and mentions a new position paper by former Israeli ambassador to the UN Dore Gold. Ha'aretz quotes former Secretary of State George P. Shultz's introduction to Foxman's book, which praises US support for Israel.

Israel Radio reported that the military branch of Islamic Jihad has announced that all its actions are coordinated with Hamas. The radio also reported that Ghazi Hamad, spokesman for ousted Palestinian PM Ismail Haniyeh, has resigned in protest over Hamas's decision not to initiate conciliation with Fatah.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Thursday naval and air units from Israel, the US, and Turkey wrapped up two days of joint search-and-rescue exercises in the eastern Mediterranean. Bahrain, Jordan, Azerbaijan, and Pakistan participated in the exercise as observers.

Ha'aretz and Israel Radio reported that Defense Minister and Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak was willing to cede the post of deputy PM to Knesset Member Ami Ayalon, but that Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer blocked the move.

The Jerusalem Post quoted political sources connected to Likud and Yisrael Beiteinu as saying that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman that he wants the two parties to run on a joint list for the Knesset. However, the newspaper quoted Netanyahu associates as saying that he will not reserve slots for Kadima rebels.

Leading media reported that Sheikh Raed Salah, head of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement, was taken to hospital in east Jerusalem on Wednesday after the police used a stun grenade to disband a joint conference with Hamas that he organized in the city's Wadi Joz neighborhood.

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe cited data published by the PA's statistical bureau that one third of young Palestinians consider emigrating.

Yediot ran a feature about strategic mistakes that have prevented the US from killing or catching Osama bin Ladin. The newspaper quoted senior Israeli Intelligence officials as saying that 9/11 was "the Americans' Yom Kippur," in reference to the Yom Kippur War.

Ha'aretz reported that the Turkish government is pressuring Israel to help reverse the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) decision to recognize Turkey's massacre of Armenians during World War I as genocide. Ha'aretz quoted Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem as saying that a meeting between Turkish FM Abdullah Gul and Israel's Ambassador to Ankara, Pinhas Avivi, became "shrill." Ha'aretz quoted an Israeli ministry source as saying that Gul told Avivi that "Turkey knows Israel was not responsible for the ADL's announcement, but is disappointed because Israel could have done something to prevent it." Ha'aretz reported that Avivi replied that Jerusalem was not involved in the ADL's decision and that "there is no change in Israel's position. We are not taking sides, and believe that the parties must hold a dialogue to clarify and investigate the matter and determine what really happened." The Jerusalem Post reported that the ADL will reconsider its opposition to an Armenian genocide bill.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that local Christian groups are up in arms over a letter sent to the White House by evangelical leaders late last month that calls on President Bush to work toward a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Maariv mentioned the possibility raised by Washington Post journalist Glenn Kessler that Secretary Rice could run for the governorship of California.

Maariv and other media publish remarks made by convicted spy Marcus Klingberg providing details about his intelligence work for the Soviet Union that he hid from his Shin Bet interrogators.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that Steven Friedland, a US-born medic in the IDF, is to receive a citation of valor next month in recognition of his service in the Second Lebanon War.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the chief spokesman of the Russian Air Force, Col. Aleksandr V. Drobyshevsky, confirmed in writing for the first time that Soviet pilots, in the USSR's most advanced MIG-25 "Foxbat" aircraft, flew highly provocative sorties over Israel's nuclear facility in Dimona in May 1967, just prior to the Six-Day War.

Several media reported that former Meretz Chairman Yossi Sarid is considering running for the mayorship of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Maariv reported that Israeli reporter Nurit Kedar is a candidate for

an Emmy award for her part in producing a documentary on Lebanon on the British Channel 4-TV.

Ha'aretz (English Ed.) reported that local Democrats are revving up voter registration in order to increase the electoral influence wielded by party members living in Israel.

Yediot reported a gang of Israelis residing in the US has defrauded Americans of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Ha'aretz and The Jerusalem Post printed an AP story citing the results of a poll by respected pollster Ghassan Khatib according to which Palestinians overwhelmingly prefer the Western-backed government of Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad over the ousted Hamas government, in spite of the fact that residents of the Gaza Strip believe their security has improved since Hamas seized control of the area.

Summary:

Senior op-ed writer Akiva Eldar commented on page one of the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz: "The ongoing bitter struggle between Fatah and Hamas obliges Israel to show special sensitivity in negotiations on the agreement of principles that is being prepared for the regional summit scheduled to take place in November."

Ha'aretz editorialized: "The achievement of an Israeli-Palestinian understanding on final-status issues would probably expand participation in the summit to include key players such as Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, who would give further credibility to a document of principles."

Military correspondent Yaakov Katz wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post: "The current assessment in the [Israeli] defense establishment is that Assad is at a point where he can go either way -- to the negotiating table or to the battlefield."

Deputy Managing Editor and right-wing columnist Caroline B. Glick wrote in The Jerusalem Post: "If the Americans want to know what will happen if their foreign policy fantasists take charge of their affairs, they have only to cast a glance at what is happening in Israel today."

Jonathan Spyer, a senior research fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, wrote in Ha'aretz: "As long as Jewish nationhood is embedded in the solid structures of economic and technological development, while its Islamist enemies can root their own ambitions only in dysfunction and failure, the results of the contest, bloody though it be, are not in doubt."

Block Quotes:

I. "The Key Is Constructive Ambiguity"

Senior op-ed writer Akiva Eldar commented on page one of the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (8/24): "The lead story in Thursday's Ha'aretz irritated Palestinian Authority headquarters in Ramallah. The story said that PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has not definitely rejected Israel's proposal of establishing a Palestinian state with temporary borders.... Leaders of Abbas's Fatah movement became nervous lest Hamas take advantage of these reports to wage psychological warfare against Fatah.... The ongoing bitter struggle between Fatah and Hamas obliges Israel to show special sensitivity in negotiations on the agreement of principles that is being prepared for the regional summit scheduled to take place in November. Hamas misses nothing, in any language. A reckless formulation, of the sort that could be construed to imply concessions on a 'sacred principle,' could doom the summit before it even occurs.... Two essential requirements for ... an arrangement are international guarantees and a timetable. These will stipulate that if relations across the fence are peaceful, Israel will grant the Palestinians fair territorial compensation -- in terms of both quantity and quality -- within an agreed period of time. The term 'fair' enables Olmert to tell the folks back home that he has not committed to withdrawing from all of the territories, while Abbas will be able to promise that in the final settlement, the Palestinians will receive territory equal to 100 percent of the West Bank."

II. "Summit Wisdom"

Ha'aretz editorialized (8/24): "As the regional summit sponsored by the President of the US approaches, signs are growing that Israel's senior political leadership wants the initiative to succeed.... The new circumstances in the territories and the Arab League initiative require the political leadership not to miss any opportunities. They obligate it to show courage and initiative in formulating understandings that will bring about the prompt establishment of a Palestinian state, a resolution of the issue of Jerusalem, and a solution to the refugee problem that would be implemented outside Israel's borders.... The achievement of an Israeli-Palestinian understanding on final-status issues would probably expand participation in the summit to include key players such as Saudi

Arabia and other Arab states, who would give further credibility to a document of principles. Kadima leaders should not be deterred by the criticism they will absorb from the right. They have a public mandate and a solid parliamentary majority to fulfill their obligation to end the occupation and ensure that Israel remains a Jewish and democratic state."

III. "Peace and Disquiet"

Military correspondent Yaakov Katz wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (8/24): "Since the Second Lebanon War, Syrian President Bashar Assad has sent a number of mixed messages.... The current assessment in the [Israeli] defense establishment is that Assad is at a point where he can go either way -- to the negotiating table or to the battlefield. Now defense minister, Barak has said a number of times in recent weeks that Israel is not interested in war and neither is Syria, and therefore 'there is no reason that it should happen.' But what is clear on the ground is that both countries are conducting around-the-clock intensive military maneuvers, which by itself is enough to raise tensions along the Golan Heights. And Israeli officials are taking the opportunity to warn the public of the possibility of war with Syria, which is armed to the teeth with anti-tank missiles and long-range Scud-D missiles.... As time passes, the situation grows more complex. One of Israel's stated interests in making peace is also to break Syria's strategic alliance with Iran. Syria and Iran are purchasing large amounts of weapons from Russia, which, in an apparent attempt to counter the multi-billion-dollar US-Saudi arms deal, has also begun bolstering its presence in the region."

IV. "The Rise of the Fantasists"

Deputy Managing Editor and right-wing columnist Caroline B. Glick wrote in The Jerusalem Post (8/24): "The [US] administration maintains its slavish devotion to negotiating with Iran over its nuclear weapons program in spite of the fact that the diplomatic track failed demonstrably three years ago.... If the Americans want to know what will happen if their foreign policy fantasists take charge of their affairs, they have only to cast a glance at what is happening in Israel today. Because in Israel, the fantasists are firmly in charge of policy. With the twin goals of fostering peace and enhancing Israel's international standing, Israel's fantasist leaders are driving the country to the outer reaches of La La Land. In the name of peace, the Olmert government is conducting semi-secret negotiations with Fatah chief Mahmoud Abbas.... Israel is seeking to extend Iran's control over Gaza to Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria [i.e. the West Bank] and then to fill these Iranian enclaves with hostile foreign Arabs."

V. "So Dynamic, the Dynamics of Revival"

Jonathan Spyer, a senior research fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, wrote in Ha'aretz (8/24): "Both Zionism and radical Islam are, self-consciously, movements of 'revival'.... Here lies the difference between these two movements and, for example, the communism and radical socialism of the 20th century on the other. The latter two preached a radical break with the past, and celebrated an unfamiliar, imagined future. Zionism and Islamism, by contrast, both draw on the deep currents of identification and loyalty felt by Jews and Muslims to their respective traditions and history.... In the case of Zionism and Israel, the singular achievement, underlying success, has been the ability to combine the archaic with the ultra-modern..... Radical Islam, of both Sunni and Shi'ite varieties, on the other hand, has at least for the moment proven unable to perform a similar feat.... If the evidence of Islamism in power -- from Sudan to Teheran to Gaza -- is anything to go by, the closed dogmatic thinking of the Islamists cannot allow the freedom upon which successful development depends.... From the point of view of Israel and its western allies, this of course bodes well. We are going to have to spend a very great amount of time and blood and treasure in the foreseeable future building ramparts against the attacks of adherents of Islamic revival. But for as long as Jewish nationhood is embedded in the solid structures of economic and technological development, while its Islamist enemies

can root their own ambitions only in dysfunction and failure, the results of the contest, bloody though it be, are not in doubt."

JONES